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11/5/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of:

WARD et al.

Serial No.: 09/872,990

Filed: May 31, 2001

Atty. File No.: 2570LI-1

For: "TREATMENT OF SEWAGE
SLUDGE"

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

) Group Art Unit: 1724

) Examiner: Hruskoci, Peter A.

) RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION
) REQUIREMENT

) "EXPRESS MAIL" LABEL NUMBER: EV 190610748 US

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Dear Sir:

In an Office Action dated September 24, 2002, the Examiner issued a Restriction Requirement with regard to the above-identified patent application. Generally, the Examiner indicated that Claims 1-19 of Group I, Claims 20-23 of Group II, and Claims 24-28 of Group III were distinct inventions. Applicants hereby elect to prosecute Claims 1-19 of Group I in this patent application. However, Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue Claims 20-23 of Group II and Claims 24-28 of Group III in a subsequent divisional/continuation application.

Although no fees are believed to be due for filing this paper, debit any underpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-1970.

Respectfully submitted,

SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.

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Date: Oct. 24, 2002

J:\2570\LI-1\Resp-Restriction requirement.wpd